

REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1 and 10 will have been amended and claims 7 and 16 will have been cancelled. In this regard, claim 1 will have been amended to recite features substantially similar to features previously recited in now-cancelled claim 7 and claim 10 will have been amended to recite features substantially similar to features previously recited in claim 16.

In view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims in the present application are in condition for allowance and respectfully request an indication to such effect, in due course. Such action is now believed to be appropriate and is, thus, respectfully requested.

Independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recite, *inter alia*, the region information storage section further stores information about a type of format for the command received in the host interface. That is, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed term a unit of address recited in claims 1 and 10 relates to an indication of a location of recording area at which data is recorded, accessed or read. In accordance with the claimed features recited in independent claims 1 and 10, an address associated with a specified access region is determined to be specified in terms of either a "sector" or a "byte". Accordingly, if the claimed unit of address associated with the specified access region is determined to be a sector, then the recording region will be recorded, accessed, or read in terms of sectors. If the unit of address associated with the specified access region is determined to be a byte, then the recording region will be read in terms of bytes.

More particularly, if the unit of address indicating a specified access region is determined to be a "byte", it is possible to specify address locations for a small recording area. However, the "byte" address format cannot be used to specify address locations for a large recording area because the number of bits required to convey an address location in a large recording area exceeds a length limit for the argument. Accordingly, the present invention is directed to defining a format of a unit of address, specified by a command, in terms of either "bytes" or "sectors".

In a recording medium having a plurality of recording regions, the format of the unit of address is defined as a byte with respect to a relatively small recording region and is defined as a sector with respect to a relatively large recording region. That is, the unit of address argument is interpreted differently according to each recording region of the recording medium. For example, the unit of address argument would be interpreted as being specified in a byte format for a small recording region and alternatively, would be interpreted as being specified in a sector format for a large recording region. Accordingly, a common command format may be used for both small recording regions and large recording regions by changing the interpretation of the unit of address.

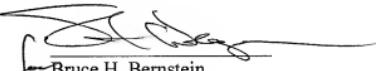
Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response

timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Hirokazu SO et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

Steven Wegman
Reg. No. 31,438